(e) what were their views;

(f) whether Government assured them any financial compensation for their rehabilitation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (e) Tobacco farmers, representatives of India Tobacco Association, Guntur, Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry and Beedi/Cigarette manufacturers were invited to attend the conference.

A series of recommendations were made in the Conference.

(f) and (g) Opinions were expressed for monetary help to farmers for changing over their tobacco cultivation to alternative crop.

Invention of Oral Drug for Thalassemia Treatment

2695. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain reports claiming invention of oral drug for Thalassemia treatment by some doctor of London's Royal Free Hospital;

(b) whether it is claimed that this oral drug minimises the cost of Thalassemia treatment by 90 per cent;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to have any study efficacy of this new invention to provide medical benefits to the suffering patients of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Dr. George S. Kontog-hiorhes of Department of Haematology, Royal Free Hospital London has developed a new drug known as Deperiprone as per the report which is found to be orally effective in removing excess of iron.

(d) The drug has also been developed indigenously, the cost of which is claimed to be significantly less than that of the imported injectable drug Desferoxamine.

(e) Based on the satisfactory clinical trial report and the recommendation of Indian Council of Medical Research the drug is approved for marketing under the close supervision of Haematologists.

Recognition of British Medical Degrees by Indian Medical Council

2696. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for recognition of British Medical Degrees by the Indian Medical Council and the Indian Medical Degrees to be recognised by the British Medical Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the British Medical Council in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Kidney Transplant Racket in Kaushalya Nursing Home, Bombay

2697. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the kidney transplant racket in the Kaushalya Nursing Home in Bombay;

(b) whether the matter has been inquired into by Government; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof and what action has been taken by Government in this regard?